reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, from time to time addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women for appointment as High Court Judges.

Utilisation of Fund Meant for SCs/STs

†4504. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount given for the welfare of Scheduled Castes is not properly utilized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by Government to ensure proper utilization of the said amount; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this applies also in the case of Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No case of improper utilization of funds has come to the notice of either the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

To ensure proper utilization, funds are released on the basis of careful examination of proposals, containing detailed information regarding past performance proper utilization of funds already released *etc.*, received from the States/UTs and other implementing Agencies.

Pre-Matric Scholarships

4505. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme of "Pre-matric Scholarships to children of those in unclean occupation";

(b) if so, the number of children benefited through this scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) how much amount was allocated to each State ?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.